different from, and antagonists of, those whose growth is sought.

42. The sod according to claim 41, having a geometric shape which makes it possible to cover continuously the surface to be revegetated.

SOD COMPRISING AGRICULTURAL COMPONENTS PARTICULARLY FOR FORMING LAWNS, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT

Technical Field

The present invention relates to the production of a modular sod of cultivation soil which comprises all the components and ingredients required for preservation, subsequent laying, germination and growth of grassy species, such as grasses, for forming lawns and grassy layers or for growing other plants, said sod being particularly useful both in professional and hobby gardening.

Background art

Traditionally, lawns and grassy layers not for agricultural use are usually formed by the following steps.

First of all, a subsoil is prepared by clearing the area away of rocks, rubble, waste, shrubs and weeds, tilling the soil from a minimum of 15 cm to a maximum of 150 cm of depth, performing thorough fertilization with organic fertilizers and phosphate and potassium fertilizers, and providing drainage systems which make use of sand, gravel and optionally deeply buried pipes, leveling and rolling the entire surface.

This preparation of the subsoil is common for all lawns, although there are variations depending on whether an ornamental lawn or a sports field is to be provided.

Two methods, seeding and sodding, are currently used in order to cover the soil thus prepared with a layer of grass. Sodding consists in laying grass sods previously cultivated elsewhere, whereas with seeding the grass is grown entirely on-site.

These two methods of seeding and sodding necessarily entail particular care.

Seeding must be performed only in certain periods of the year at suitable adequate temperatures. At latitudes of northern Italy, for example, seeding is

performed between mid-March and mid-October. In order to have a more moist soil and avoid the presence of rhizomes of weeds, seeding is preferably performed between the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

Seeding must be performed by uniformly scattering seeds on the surface and at a correct surface density, and thus it is almost always necessary to resort to seeding machines or to an expert sower when seeding is performed manually, as is usually the case for small areas.

After distributing the seeds, said seeds must be covered with a thin layer of earth and peat and the soil is rolled in order to ensure adhesion of the seed to the soil. These operations must be performed unless seeding is performed by casting a mixture of seeds, bonding agent and sawdust, e.g. on the slopes.

Subsequently, erosion of the topsoil due to rain and infestation caused by weed seeds may occur.

After seeding, the soil must be watered regularly for several months.

Sodding is a much faster revegetation method with lower weed invasion and no surface erosion and soil subsidence in case of rain. However, the varieties of grasses suitable for the sodding method are limited. Moreover, it is necessary to have wide areas available and suitable procedures for cultivating the grass on the sods must be followed.

Grassy sods, which are generally 4 or 5 mm thick, are uprooted, optionally rolled up, transported and laid on the final soil, and all this must occur in no more than one-and-a-half days, unless the sods are climate-controlled.

Before the sods are laid, one must ensure that the soil is soft, moist and rich in organic substances. After laying, gentle rolling is performed in order to ensure adequate contact with the soil, and any gaps between the sods are filled with sand and peat. Regular watering in the weeks after laying is also important.